



NEWS RELEASE

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WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORMER ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL EMPLOYEE SENTENCED FOR FORGING CHECKS TOTALING \$57,000

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Independence, Mo., woman was sentenced in federal court today for depositing forged checks made payable to St. Mary's Hospital into her and her husband's personal checking account.

Jewell E. Beem, 61, of Independence, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this afternoon to one year and one day in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Beem** to pay \$57,124 in restitution.

On April 20, 2004, **Beem** pleaded guilty. **Beem** admitted that on numerous occasions she forged checks from several insurance companies made payable to St. Mary's Hospital of Blue Springs, Mo., and deposited them into her and her husband's checking account. The value of the forged checks totaled approximately \$57,124, Graves said. **Beem** admitted that she altered 43 checks between Oct. 2, 2000, and Jan. 29, 2002.

Beem was employed in the business office at St. Mary's Hospital from March 15, 1999, until May 6, 2002. During the course of her employment, **Beem** took insurance reimbursement checks received for patient care and either forged an endorsement for the hospital or changed the payee from St. Mary's Hospital to the name of her husband. **Beem** would then deposit the checks into her and her husband's personal account.

In order to conceal the fraudulent activity, Graves said, **Beem** would manipulate patient account information to prevent bills from being sent to the patients and further inquiries from the hospital to the insurance companies.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Frances E. Reddis. It was investigated by the United States Secret Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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